IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A pipe joint between two metallic pipes which have been internally and/or externally coated with a material to prevent corrosion, said joint comprising: ~~including~~

a spigot disposed on a first of said two metallic pipes; ~~and~~

a socket disposed on a second of said two metallic pipes ~~said socket~~ having an internal circumferential groove; ~~that provides a seating for~~

an elastomeric sealing ring disposed in said groove;

a lip disposed along said socket and extending from said groove to an end of said socket, ~~and forwardly of which groove a lip is provided which provides a~~ said lip providing a welding location remote from the sealing ring, said end of said socket not being coated with said material to prevent corrosion; ~~with the coating on the end of the socket if necessary having been removed to facilitate welding, said spigot having~~

a heat sink member disposed on said ~~to enable the lip of the socket to be welded to the metal of the~~ spigot, said heat sink member being a metal band attached to and extending circumferentially around said spigot, said heat sink member configured to enable welding of said socket end without causing a critical rise in temperature of an inside surface of at least one of said metallic pipes; and

a weld joint region disposed along said socket between said lip and said welding location, said weld joint region formed in an area between a portion of said lip, said heat sink member and said spigot, said weld region being remote from the sealing ring wherein said sealing ring prevents fluid from entering the weld joint region.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] pipe joint as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the second of said two metallic pipes ~~pipe having the socket~~ is coated both internally and externally with the material to prevent corrosion and ~~except at the extreme end of the socket where no coating has been provided or has been removed, whilst~~ the exterior of the spigot is coated with the material to prevent corrosion except at the location upon which ~~of~~ the heat sink is disposed.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a pipe joint between ~~the~~ spigot and socket ends of a pair of metallic pipes which have been internally and/or externally coated with a material to prevent corrosion, said method including:

forming a groove in the socket to provide a seat for a sealing ring ~~and also~~;

forming a lip in the socket to enable said socket to overlap a heat sink member on the spigot, said heat sink member being disposed on ~~and in contact with the metal of~~ said spigot, ~~and wherein the said lip is welded~~

welding said lip to said heat sink member at a welding location, said lip including an extension portion; and

forming a weld joint region disposed along said socket between said lip and said welding location, said weld joint region formed in an area between a portion of said extension, said heat sink member and said spigot, said weld region being remote from the sealing ring wherein said sealing ring prevents fluid from entering the weld joint region.

5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 4, wherein the steps of forming ~~the formation of the socket end of the pipe at the joint with~~ said groove, ~~and~~ forming said lip, and disposing ~~the spigot end of the associated pipe including the positioning of the~~ said heat sink member on said spigot are performed off, or at, the site where the joint between the pipes is to be made.

6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the method further includes:

heating the pipes ~~are heated~~ to a predetermined temperature; and

immersing ~~immersed~~ the pipes in a fluidized bed of the material to prevent corrosion off, or at, the site where the joint between the pipes is to be made.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 6, wherein prior to immersion in the fluidized bed of the material to prevent corrosion, the surfaces which are to be coated are grit blasted.

8. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 4 further including the step of ~~to 7, 5,6,7,13 or 14 wherein~~ removing the material to prevent corrosion from the lip of the socket and the heat sink member off, or at the site where the joint between the pipes is to be made.

9. Cancelled

10. Cancelled

11. Cancelled

12. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] pipe joint ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 [[2]], wherein said second of said two metallic pipes ~~the pipe having the socket~~ is coated both internally and externally with the material to prevent corrosion except at the ~~extreme~~ end of the socket ~~where no coating has been provided or has been removed~~, said spigot having an exterior surface wherein said ~~whilst the~~ exterior surface ~~of the spigot~~ is coated with the material to prevent corrosion except at the location upon which [[of]] the heat sink is disposed.

13. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 5 further comprising:[[,]] ~~wherein the pipes are heated~~ heating the pipes to a determined ~~predetermined~~ temperature; and

immersing said heated pipes ~~immersed~~ in a fluidized bed of the material to prevent corrosion off, or at, the site where the joint between the pipes is to be made.

14. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 13, wherein prior to the step of immersing the pipes ~~immersion~~ in the fluidized bed of the material to prevent corrosion, the surfaces of the pipes ~~which are~~ to be coated are grit blasted.

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. Cancelled

18. Cancelled

19. Cancelled

20. Cancelled